



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

August 5, 2005

REFERENCE: UNREINFORCED MASONRY BUILDING

This is to remind you that the January 1, 2006 date by which the URM building owners are required to comply with the mandatory provisions of the City of San Diego URM Regulations is fast approaching.

Adopted by the City Council on November 9, 1992, the "Earthquake Hazard Reduction in Existing Buildings" ordinance established a program for the mitigation of seismic hazards associated with buildings containing unreinforced masonry bearing walls. The ordinance requires some mandatory strengthening of all unreinforced masonry [URM] buildings and contains trigger mechanisms which may lead to complete seismic retrofit (refer to San Diego Municipal Code [SDMC] Chapter 14, Article 5, Division 4).

In our efforts to provide assistance to the owners of unreinforced masonry buildings, and to facilitate compliance with the URM Ordinance by the stated time limit, we established an expedite program for the plan review, permit issuance and inspection of seismic retrofit projects.

For more information about the City of San Diego Unreinforced Masonry Program, please visit the Development Services web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services> or contact Mehdi Shadyab, P.E., Department URM Program Coordinator, at (858) 573-1233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isam Hasenin".

Isam Hasenin, P.E., C.B.O.
Chief Building Official